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DE RUEHSO #0605 1511900
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
O 311900Z MAY 06
FM AMCONSUL SAO PAULO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5172
INFO RHEHNSC/NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY 6282
RUEHRI/AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO PRIORITY 7149
RUCPDOG/USDOC WASHDC 2449

UNCLAS SAO PAULO 000605

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STATE INR/R/MR; IIP/R/MR; WHA/PD

DEPT PASS USTR

USDOC 4322/MAC/OLAC/JAFEE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [KMDR](#) [OPRC](#) [OIIP](#) [ETRD](#) [BR](#)

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: WESTERN HEMISPHERE: COLOMBIA: PRESIDENTIAL
ELECTION; SAO PAULO

"Uribe's Reelection"

Liberal Folha de S. Paulo (5/31) editorialized: "Reelected with 62% of votes, the returns are the confirmation of [Colombia's President] Alvaro Uribe's hard line against the guerrillas and crime.... The intensification of the presence of the Army and the police has helped to reduce common criminality.... The return of the sense of security in the major cities is the mainly due to Uribe's victory. In regards to drug traffickers, the 'democratic security' policy was less effective despite the USG's USD 500 million annual assistance. The drug barons' power has been reduced, but not to the point of jeopardizing that activity, which is the main source of corruption in the government and that of financing the guerrilla. In his second term Uribe must consolidate such achievements and enlarge them, by forcing the Farc to negotiate. He will also need to work in fronts other than security. Priority must be given to the economy. Included in the agenda are the approvals of a tax reform and the ratification of a FTA with the US."
Wolfe